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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Lolo National Forest Land Management Plan Revision. I am a mountain biker, skier and hiker and have been recreating on the Lolo since the mid-1990s. I am an expert mountain biker and crave challenging backcountry mountain biking and bikepacking routes. There are a number of these trails that I would lose bicycle access to if your proposed actions are finalized in the Forest Plan.

The trail system around Monture Creek is one of my all-time favorites, especially the climb up Falls Creek and the wonderful loop ride around Canyon Lake, Lake Otatsy and Camp Lake. Much of this ride will be off limits to bikes if the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act ever makes it through congress, which makes me sad, yet I support the BCSA because of the good it will do the Blackfoot Clearwater watershed. It's disappointing that the proposed Lolo N.F. Plan revision does not use the BCSA boundaries. I would prefer that the plan use the BCSA boundaries instead of the outdated boundaries from the 1986 forest plan.

The Great Burn is another area where I have had many wonderful backcountry adventures on my mountain bike. I would prefer that the Great Burn not be recommended as wilderness and instead be given another form of protection, such as backcountry non-motorized, that would still allow me to ride my bike there. At the very least, I would like to see the Lolo follow the Nez-Perce-Clearwater NF and designate a non-motorized travel corridor on established trails in the Heart Lake area. These are classic backcountry mountain bike rides that we have been enjoying for decades, we will be able to continue enjoying this resource if the Lolo NF can align their management policies with the Nez-Perce-Clearwater.

Thank you for preserving mountain bike access to Carlton Ridge and in the Cube Iron Roadless Complex. I also appreciate the plan calling for more connectivity and loop rides in the Greater Missoula area.

Switching my bike helmet for a wool hat, I've been skiing the Lolo Pass area since the late 1990s and I appreciate the Lolo NF plans protection of backcountry skiing by preserving non-motorized access to many of our favorite spots in Lolo Pass, Hoodoo Pass, Wisherd Ridge, Marshall Mountain and Morrel Mountain. There are some small tweaks that could be made to the plan to make our non-motorized winter backcountry experience even better: Please restrict motorized access in the Crystal Amphitheater on Lolo Pass by making FS 16675 a Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized setting instead of Motorized. Please restrict motorized access into Saint Regis Basin. I strongly oppose FS 18591 as a Semi-Primitive Motorized setting. Please consider it as a Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized setting to lessen snowmobile conflict. Finally, please significantly reduce the excessive size of the motorized buffer along Morrell Mountain Lookout Road (FR 4365) to protect non-motorized access to this terrain near one of our very few backcountry yurts in this range.

Thank you for all of your hard work on this plan and thank you for reading my comments.